



Australian Government
Fisheries Research and
Development Corporation

FRDC Research Open Call Round Social Science Research Coordination Program 2010/11 Priority Areas

The following is broken down into Key Priority Research Areas and Additional General Issues and Associated optional research areas. All project proposals submitted to the SSRCP are included in the general FRDC call for research funding, and as such have no separate or discreet funding for the following research areas. However, industry and management have concurred in the need for research in all the following areas, but with specific focus on the Key Priority areas of research.

Preliminary research Proposals (PRPs) should be submitted via FISHNET by **COB on May 10th, 2010, with an electronic copy also sent to the Program Manager, Kate Brooks (Kate@kalanalysis.com.au)**. The SSRCP will consider all proposals received by May 10th and provide feedback by June 30th, 2010. The SSRCP will be seeking to identify a small number of proposals to foster and assist in their development for submission to the Board for funding consideration in the Full Proposal Round (closing November 1st, 2010) for projects commencing in the 2011 year.

KEY PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

1. **Management: The evaluation of Co-management models.**

The objective is to identify from both Australia and international experience, the most effective model to meet the criteria of being; socially and culturally acceptable, inclusive and beneficial, with the greatest economic and ecological outcomes. The project should consider those models that facilitate the most equitable benefit for all stakeholders resulting from management arrangements.

The project must identify;

- the practices that produce both positive and negative outcomes and why; and
- models for implementation that have been most effective and practical

The output sought from this project is a recommended (set of) model(s) that have considered the perspectives of AFMA, State fisheries bodies and Peak Industry Bodies (commercial and recreational), that meet the criteria listed above.

2. **Resource Sharing and Access: Social impact assessments of previous fisheries resource allocation decisions.**

The objective of this research is to identify processes that have minimised conflict and why or how this was achieved, while also identifying tools to inform future social elements of resource allocation decisions.

The project would be likely to undertake social impact assessments of previous allocation decisions to identify turning points at which allocation decisions could have minimised conflict while maximising resource sustainability. The project must assess:

- At least one Commonwealth fishery
- Three State fisheries (of different jurisdictions) and one which has multiple stakeholders (eg. Commercial, recreational and charter operators)

The output sought from this project is a framework of decision making criteria and processes that will contribute to minimising the social conflict traditionally associated with resource allocation in fisheries.

3. Industry capacity: Understanding drivers of behaviour change and influencers of adoption and uptake.

The objective of this research is to understand how best to address the creation of attitude and behaviour change in regard to both, imposed issues (legislated change such as regulations around bycatch), and gradual change issues (such as climate change).

The output sought from the project is a recommended set of approaches for industry and management agencies to utilise in the context of communicating both imposed and gradual change that will produce the greatest uptake.

4. Well being and Profitability: Identifying and understanding the measurement of the social benefits of recreational fishing.

This priority calls for an audit of research relating to the health and wellbeing benefits of participating in recreational fishing. With specific reference to recreational fisheries, but including the evaluation of studies in the wider literature on leisure studies, outdoor recreation, health, and fitness, this audit seeks to understand the existing knowledge on the health and social wellbeing benefits of outdoor leisure activities which would encompass participation in recreational fishing. The aim is to provide a synthesis of knowledge about the health and wellbeing benefits of participation in recreational fishing in order to identify gaps in the available research, and to guide current and future researchers in regard to developing future projects. The Audit should answer the following four questions:

- What are the findings of studies conducted specifically on the social, psychological and physical benefits of participating in recreational fishing?
- What are the findings of studies conducted on the social, psychological, and physical benefits of participating in leisure/outdoor recreation activities in general, and how can these findings be applied to understanding the benefits of participating in recreational fishing?
- What methodologies have been used in past relevant recreation health and wellbeing benefits studies, and how can these be applied to studying the recreational fishing sector?
- What are the gaps in knowledge and future priority research areas about the health and wellbeing benefits of participating in recreational fishing in Australia?

Additional General Issues & Associated Optional Research Areas

Economic Viability:

Industry Characteristics & Community reliance and resilience to impacts of management decisions: Call for baseline data to understand the nature of industry (social,

demographic, economic; and attitudinal) and facilitate Social Impact Assessments. Community reliance and resilience to be addressed through:

- Toolkit of indicators;
- How to understand indicators;
- Ongoing monitoring;
- Integration with economic and ecological in making fisheries management decisions - e.g. net benefit.

Management Arrangements - (Co)management styles; options; ownership (commercial, recreational and indigenous), inclusion of social inputs; compliance and illegal take; Investigating mitigation measures for Management impacts; Understanding and predicting behavioural responses to management approaches.

Industry / Seafood Acceptability - community attitudes to sustainability, media education and engagement, management acceptability, consumer education and product promotion.

- Changing attitudes to seafood consumption and increasing seafood consumption

Community Perceptions and Attitudes

Resource Sharing: Recreational versus commercial; NGO impacts; Interest group (tourism, divers, etc) impacts.

- Social Impact assessments based on data from Investigating industry characteristics.

Resource Access: MPAs; closed areas; oil and gas; ports; labour availability; planning regulations

- Social Impact assessments based on data from Investigating industry characteristics
- Understanding and predicting behavioural responses to management approaches (Refer also to FRDC Project 2008/335 – Fisher engagement with Industry Bodies.)
- Investigating mitigation measures in response to Management measures

Well being and profitability - operating costs, price, fuel, labour shortages, succession planning, efficiency, reduction of regulatory impacts.

- Identifying and understanding factors that drive responsiveness or adoption of new practices and innovation and how can these be influenced.
- Social barriers to;
 - R&D comprehension and uptake;
 - R&D transfer;
 - Leadership;
 - Positive industry representation.
- Building social capital between industry and communities.

Human Capital

- Industry capacity - toolkit comprehension, R&D transfer, Industry representation, ownership of research outcomes and management decisions. (To be addressed in collaboration with the People Development program)
- Identifying and understanding factors that drive responsiveness to, or adoption of, new practices and innovation and how can these be influenced.
- Preservation of skills and recruitment for industry
- Social barriers to;
 - R&D comprehension and uptake;

- R&D transfer;
- Leadership;
- Positive industry representation.

Ecosystem impacts Perceptions & Attitudes - bycatch reporting; stewardship; impacts of tradeoffs

Indigenous

Cultural

- Prevention of maintenance of cultural practices, including fishing.
- The loss of traditional fishing knowledge
- Prevention of Intergenerational transmission of indigenous cultural

Social

- Declining opportunities for shared community activities associated with fishing
- Ineffective engagement on indigenous fishers in management decision making processes
- lack of established protocols for seeking participation with indigenous fishers

Economic

- Access to a proportion of target species based on prior use of those species for consumption and trade.
- Loss of indigenous commercial fishermen as a result of management approaches (input to output)
- Impact on health as a result of impeded access to traditional seafood diets

Capacity

- lack of capacity to engage effectively in the use and management of fish stocks